OFFICIAL ORGAN OF

THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

Vol. III.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 4, 1924

No. 7

Success of the Wheat Pool "Sign Up" Campaign Depends on You

Every Local and Constituency and District Association of the U. F. A. Should Prepare for Campaign Which Commences March 17th—Trustees Outline Plans—Canvassing Teams Needed to Cover Entire Territory

Upon the initiative and enthusiasm and energy of the members of U. F. A. Locals and Federal and Provincial Constituency and District Associations, and the numerous Wheat Pool Local Associations and committees organized through-

out the Province, the success of
the Wheat Pool "Sign Up" Campaign to be held from March
17th to 31st will mainly depend.
In every portion of the Province where wheat is grown

preparations should be made at the earliest possible moment for the enrolment of all the farmers of Alberta who are not already members, in the first great co-operative grain marketing undertaking to be established in North America.

CONTRACTS AND LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED

The co-operation of rural municipal councils, rural school trustee boards, boards of trade, co-operative trading associa-tions and banks is being enlisted. Contracts are being dis-tributed to all the organizations which are expected to participate, and these, with other literature, will serve as a guide to those who render assistance in the campaign.

With all the details of the campaign it is not possible to deal in the current issue, but information of the most complete character is being sent through the mails, and this, it is anticipated, will be brought before the members at their regular or special meetings. On another page in this issue we publish a list of meetings to be addressed by members of the Board of Trustees, and this list will be supplemented in the issue of March 11th. The Trustees have mapped out the issue of March 11th. The Trustees have mapped out definite plans, and they will arrange, as far as possible, for the canvassing teams to cover the various districts. An effort has been made, in the arrangement of these meetings, to cover the main strategic points, taking into consideration the question of transportation facilities, and it is hoped that representatives of districts which the Trustees find it impossible to visit will have representation at these meetings.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICERS IN SUPERVISORY CAPACITY

It is expected that officers of Federal and Provincial Constituency Associations, who will have special knowledge of their territory, will be in a position to act in a supervisory capacity, and to take charge of the campaign in districts which may not have either a U. F. A. or a Wheat Pool Local. Their responsibility, and the responsibility of every Local officer and member, are increased by virtue of the fact that their representatives in the legislative bodies will be unable to participate. It is to be regretted that owing to their concentration on public duties at Edmonton, the members of the Legislative Assembly, whose very able assistance was one of the main factors in the successes achieved last fall, will be unable to participate. While the campaign is

PAYMENT OF 10 CENTS A BUSHEL DURING MARCH

The first payment to be made to members of the Alberta' Co-operative Wheat Producers, Ltd., on the basis of their participation certificates, will be approximately \$2,500,000. This will be distributed during the month of March, at the rate of 10 cents a bushei.

in progress they will be engaged, among other duties, in furthering new legislation which will make possible a wide extension of the field of co-operative marketing. A special act of in-corporation for the Wheat Pool will be brought in this session.

WILL DETERMINE POLICY OF POOL FOR YEAR

Judging by the tone of letters which have been received at the head office of the Wheat Pool in Calgary, farmers throughout the Province are keenly desirous of the success of the campaign, and prepared to do their share towards this end. It must be remembered that the greater the percentage of the wheat growers signed up in the Pool, the better its position will be, as its strength in bargaining is almost entirely dependent upon the proportion of the crop which it controls. In very large degree the policy of the Pool for the coming year will be determined by this consideration, and the policy must be decided at a very early date. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are carrying on a very active drive for membership, and in all probability they will be in the Pool for the

For personal and other reasons, a considerable number of farmers (about 5 per cent.), withdrew under the provisions of Clause 1 of the Wheat Pool Contract during the withdrawal of Clause 1 of the Wheat Pool Contract during the withdrawal period last fall. Many of these have since been reinstated at their own request. A letter is being sent out by R. O. German, Secretary of the Pool, to all those who are still on the withdrawal list, asking them to reconsider their decision and to apply for reinstatement. "It is expected," says Mr. German, "that provision will be made whereby a farmer may sign a contract now to become effective for the 1924 crop, without being bound to the Pool in respect to any wheat of the 1923 crop which he may still be holding.

SATISFACTION WITH FINANCIAL POSITION

"The prospects for a successful year," he states, "bid fair to reward the courageous and steadfast support which the members of the Pool have manifested in meeting the problems with which it has been necessary to contend. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees a report covering the financial position of the Pool, was laid before the Board of Trustees, and the members of the Board expressed their entire satisfaction therewith."

ITINERARIES OF POOL TRUSTEES

The itineraries of various members of the Board of Trustees are given below. O. L. McPherson, owing to duties as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, will be unable to participate. President Wood's itinerary, and details of the pro-

(Continued on page. 14)



WANTED 25,000 MEN

In the Province of Alberta will be given an opportunity to become members of

The Alberta Wheat Pool

In the last two weeks of this month.

27,000 ALBERTA FARMERS

have already declared their independence of the old unsatisfactory Grain Marketing System and ARE GLAD OF IT

Alberta is showing the World that IT CAN BE DONE

The Co-operative Marketing Way leads to PERMANENT PROSPERITY

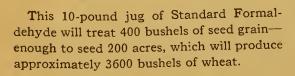
On March 17th

Join the Pool!

Board of Trustees

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100% EFFECTIVE BY ACTUAL TEST

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STANDARD CHEMICAL CO. LTD.

Montreal WINNIPEG Toronto

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LONDON | OCTOBER, 1924

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Fares, Sailings, Etc.

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Rates that are Reasonable.

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One Year\$2.00 Single Coples10 cents

Make remittance by money order or postal note. We cannot accept responsibility for currency forwarded through the mail.

Change of Address—When ordering a change of address, the former as well as the present address should be given; otherwise the alteration cannot be made.

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Vol. III.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 4, 1924

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EDITORIAL

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

When the U. F. A. Government came into power in the fall of 1921, they inherited a burden of financial problems such as no other Government has been called upon to bear. Without exception they lacked previous experience of Governmental administration, though most of them had to their credit long periods of public service by which they had been fitted for the difficult task which they were called upon to face. At a time when the costs of Government had been rapidly mounting, crop failures, and the beginning of the era of low prices for agricultural products, deprived the principal taxpayers of the Province of their sources of revenue.

In the period of more than two years which has since passed, the Government have succeeded in arresting the upward tendency in administrative expenditure, and during the past year have effected very extensive and very important reductions. The civil service of today is more efficient, more nearly freed from the canker of politics, than it has ever been in the past.

The public accounts, contents of which are summarized elsewhere in this issue, reveal a progressive reduction in the deficit on the budget from over \$2,000,000 in 1921, when the Government were in power for only a few months, to little more than one-quarter of that figure during the year 1923. Whatever may be our views as to the ultimate solution of the financial problem which this Government, in common with almost all others, are confronted, and will continue to be confronted, the statement brought down in the Assembly last week by the Provincial Treasurer shows at least that a very thorough and a very determined effort has been made, with successful results, to cope with the problem of public economy.

It is doubtful whether the Government could go any considerable distance further than it has already gone, in the curtailment of controllable expenditure, without seriously impairing vitally necessary public services, which bring to the community, in direct or indirect returns, many times the value of the money expended.

It is noteworthy that the largest item is the charge for public debt. This represents, to a very large extent, "uncontrollable expenditure," in payment for accumulations of debt since the early days of the Province.

In the Telephone Department, out of a total deficit of \$116,755, the amount due to sinking fund is responsible for all but \$820.65. There can be no question that the very heavy purchases of material at peak prices, during a period possibly of some years, and especially during the election year of 1921, will prove a heavy handicap to this utility for years to come, the loss of a million dollars occasioned by the ill-advised purchase of telephone poles being one of the im-

portant contributing factors in the piling up of the present liabilities of the Department. The cost is being borne by the telephone users of the Province.

* * *

Elsewhere in this issue we deal with the Wheat Pool "Sign Up" campaign which will be carried on during the last two weeks of the present month. The U. F. A. Locals will play a leading part in the campaign. It will be upon them that chief responsibility for its success will rest. The Local U. F. A. drives now in ploses have brought about a very notable increase in membership. This will mean a greater number of active workers in the present campaign.

Although the very rapid increase in the number of new names to be added to our lists created some temporary difficulty, copies of the current issue will be sent to all members whose names have been sent in to date. Members who have not received every issue of "The U. F. A." since the beginning of 1924 may obtain missing numbers on application to "The U. F. A." office. From this time forward every subscriber should receive the paper.

When, after a long period of crop failures and general depression, there was a falling off in the membership of the U. F. A. last year, various politicians were generous in their sympathy. A well-known Liberal in expressing his sympathy even went so far a few weeks ago as to quote the membership for 1923 as less than 10,000. Somewhat curiously the farmers are receiving no congratulations today, when their organization is increasing in strength. And there have been no congratulations from the Liberal party in the Legislature.

The papers which a few months ago were disposed to harp upon the theory that the farmers' support of economics by political action had weakened the organization, failed to call attention to the fact that it was following the decision to take political action in Alberta that the greatest expansion took place. But the U. F. A. has received few condolences from the press since the success of the drive inaugurated by the Locals became apparent. The solitary dirge is chanted intermittently and somewhat out of season by the Morning Albertan.

* * *

No one who has had occasion to watch proceedings in the Alberta Legislature in the old days, and the proceedings to-day, could fail to be impressed by the very notable change which has taken place in the manner in which the debates are conducted. The standard of debate is higher than it has ever been before. In no previous Assembly has there ever been so large a body of private members capable of contributing thoughtful, constructive and independent criticism of public measures. Such of the old spirit as remains, is called forth for the most part by the continuance of old party methods by certain Liberals who were members of former Legislatures. And when criticism has been offered in a non-party spirit, whether by Liberals, by Dr. Stewart, by the Labor members (who sometimes criticize but never waste their time on "politics"), or by any Independent who makes clear his absolute freedom from partyism, it has been accepted, in almost every case, on the Government side of the Assembly, with respect, and with no attempt to "score" in political fencing. It must be admitted, however, that the farmers can hold their own in debate. The fact of the matter is that the party spirit can never be completely exorcised until the old party groupings have been further weakened, and have given place to strong independent groups in the Assembly. Of these the U. F. A. is the first to arrive.

Mortgage Laws, Highways, and Reduction of Deficit Principal Topics of Week

Assembly Rejects Motion Calling for Committee on Mortgage Legislation—Deficit Little More Than Half Estimate—Hail Insurance Amendments and Church Union Bill Pass Second Reading

Staff Correspondence.

Highways Bill Meets With Approval

Total Debenture Cost of Five-year Program Will Be About \$5,350,000

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 25.—The Highways Bill, providing for the raising of \$3,500,000 by way of debentures for the construction of highways in Alberta, was given second reading in the Assembly today, on motion of Alex. Ross, Min-ister of Public Works. The total debenture cost, including interest, etc., will be

about \$5,350,000.

With the main outlines of this measure readers of "The U. F. A." are already familiar, as these were published in the issue of February 12th. The building program will be spread over a term of five years. Under the bill a construction branch is to be established. A complete plan of market roads has been prepared. The Government, under the new legislation, will be able to take advantage of the Federal Aid grants. Every loan raised under the act will be discharged in fifteen years, through the creation of a sinking fund, into which such sums as the Treasurer may deem sufficient will be paid, firstly by allocating not more than one-half of the fees collected from motor licenses, any balance necessary being paid from the general revenue.

MARSHALL CONGRATULATES MINISTER

Some opposition speakers criticized certain features of the measure. R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), congratulated the Government and welcomed the measure very heartily, stating that he could find only one fault with it—the period of five years necessary to spend \$3,500,000 seemed too long, or the sumwas too small. He wished to see the money expended where it would do most permanent good, in providing the best of culverts and gravel. No Government would be justified in building roads which it could not afterwards keep in good repair. The north country, he said, should not be neglected.

A very careful and detailed explana-tion of the terms of the bill was given by the Minister, Mr. Ross. In addition to the appropriations for main highways, he said, there would be appropriations for the development of market roads, construction of bridges, assistance to municipalities in the building and reconditioning of roads, and supplying necessary engineering assistance and advice. The Government intended to work towards the creation of a complete chain of market roads.

TOTAL OF 2.575 MILES OF HIGHWAYS

Mr. Ross corrected a statement made by Mr. Bowen in the debate on the adPremier Greenfield stated, in the debate on C. R. Mitchell's resolution on mortgage legislation, that the interests of the Province have been prejudicially affected by misleading propaganda on this subject. J. E. Brownlee, Attorney-General, confirmed this statement from definite information received from eastern investors, who declared that certain Western agents were seeking to "cover up the results of bad management by protests against legislation."

dress, when the member averred that the Good Roads Board had gone out of existence. This was not the case. C. W. Davidson, a capable engineer, had been appointed chairman. A total of 2,575 miles of highways, 1,975 miles of which were already constructed but required improving, were provided for in the program. It was imperatively necessary to open up highways in the north, since there was no access to the Peace

River country from Edmonton.

The roads, it was intended, would be built to a general standard, 18 feet wide, with a 4½ inch crown, and widening by two feet as cities were approached. The roads would be gravelled wherever possible. Except in certain cases where it would be necessary to employ day labor,

contract labor would be used.

Mr. Ross explained that by spending \$3,500,000 Alberta expected to get a grant of \$1,500,000 from the Ottawa Government. The period during which the grant could be obtained would expire in 1927 in the natural course of events, but an extension was hoped for.

MITCHELL THINKS LICENSE MONEY WILL BE WASTED

It was contended by C. R. Mitchell that the automobile license money amounting to \$750,000 annually, would amounting to \$150,000 annuary, would be diverted from road making purposes and the \$3,500,000 would be largely wasted because, he believed, there was a lack of systematic highways plans. Mr. Mitchell commended Mr. Dimsdale, the former Highways Commissioner and the former Highways Commissioner, and said that the Government had not followed his advice, and that this was to be regretted. The member thought the money should be borrowed on the general credit of the Province and repaid as such, and that the whole of the automobile license revenue should be expended on highways.

Mr. Ross, in defence of the five-year

program, said that much mapping and survey work was necessary, and so large a program could not be carried out in a short space of time. He pointed out, in reference to maintenance, that the heavy rainfall last year had been a great hand-

icap to the department.

J. C. Bowen, Liberal (Edmonton), contended that the plank in the U. F. A. platform of 1921, that all expenditures should be carried out under a highways commission, had not been adhered to.
"The Good Roads Board," said Mr. Ross, "did not have any power to expend

money. It could make recommendations, and was purely an advisory body." Mr. Bowen believed that the Board's ad-

Answering W. M. Washburn, U. F. A. (Stony Plain), Mr. Ross said the question as to whether the Dominion Government could rediscount the Provincial bonds and thus save a tremendous sum to the people would be dealt with at a

J. R. Boyle remarked that two years ago he had warned the Government that the Highways Commission would be an embarrassment, and he had proved to be right. He added that Mr. Dimsdale had made a complete report which the

Legislature had never seen.

General approval of the bill was given by M. C. McKeen, U. F. A. (Lac Ste. Anne), who last year criticized the Government for lack of an aggressive roads policy. He agreed with Mr. Marshall that the program ought to be extended. "The people want roads, and want them as soon as possible," he said.

C. R. Mitchell Presents Case for Committee

Contends Borrowers and Lenders Both Dissatisfied-Greenfield Presents Statement—G. N. Johnston on Deflation

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 26.—Alleging that there was widespread dissatisfaction in regard to the effect of existing legislation regarding mortgage loan securities, C. R. Mitchell, Liberal member for Bow Valley, today presented a motion calling upon the Government to appoint a Select Standing Committee of the Assembly to investigate the situation, to call witnesses, and to report to the Legislature during the present session. Premier Greenfield, in a brief statement, said that the Government had held several conferences with the representatives of mortgage companies and representatives of investing companies in Eastern Canada during the year, that their views were well-known, that a number of such representatives had admitted quite frankly that the situation was not so serious as represented in propaganda issued in behalf of the Mortgage Loans Association of the Province, and that these misleading statements had prejudicially affected the interests of the Province. Certain improvement in existing legislation, said the Premier, would, however, be suggested to the Assembly in due course.

DEFLATION OF PRICES THE REAL TROUBLE

George N. Johnston, U. F. A. member for Coronation, opposing the resolution, contended that the deflation of agricul-tural prices which had practically de-

stroyed the values of farm lands, and not legislation, was responsible for the present mortgage situation. The resolution was supported by W. M. Davidson, one of the Independent members for Calgary, who said that if misleading propaganda had been circulated, this would be brought out by the inquiry before the proposed select committee. J. W. Heffernan, a Liberal member for Edmonton, somewhat startled the Assembly by suggesting that the Premier's statement, charging that misleading propaganda had been circulated, would more harm to the Province than all the propaganda that might have been issued.

In presenting his statement Premier Greenfield asked that it be recorded on the Journals of the Assembly. J. R. Boyle, just prior to adjournment, asked whether this was permissible. If it were allowed in a Legislature where there was no Hansard, he said, anyone might ask to have a statement embodying his arguments so recorded, and the necessity for moving amendments would be done away with. The Speaker, while he was not, he said, in a position to give a considered judgment, was of the opinion that the statement in question could not properly be laid on the table for record.

COLLECTION OF SMALL DEBTS

The debate on Mr. Mitchell's motion occupied the greater part of the day's sitting. A motion by Stanley Tobin, Liberal member for Leduc, asking that justices of the peace be empowered to adjudicate on claims for debts of from \$50 to \$100, under the Small Debts Act, was withdrawn by the member after J. E. Brownlee, Attorney-General, had announced his views on the matter, an amendment by Geo. MacLachlan also being withdrawn. Mr. Brownlee found himself in accord with much of Mr. Tobin's argument, but believed that rather than to give jurisdiction to justices of the peace, many of whom lacked the necessary legal knowledge, it might be desirable to increase the number of magistrates in the cural districts, and empower them to deal with small debt cases up to \$100. Mr. Brownlee said he was not certain whether the necessary legislation could be drafted in time for its enactment this session, but if possible it would be brought in.

At the opening of the sitting Jos. Dechene, Liberal member for Beaver River, asked whether the Government had received any communication from U. F. A. organizations with reference to the question of by-elections in Clear-water and Grouard. Premier Greenfield stated that one communication had been received, from the U. F. A. Constituency

Association of Grouard.

MR. MITCHELL'S RESOLUTION

C. R. Mitchell's resolution set forth that in view of dissatisfaction with existing mortgage legislation the Government should introduce amendments to existing acts to remove causes of dis-satisfaction, appointing as a preliminary step, a Select Standing Committee to report during the present session.

NOT DEFENDING MISTAKES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

"I am not here to defend the mistakes of the last Government," said the member, who contended that in one case at any rate legislation complained of, which

established a new priority of claim over a first mortgage, had been passed by the present Government. George Hoadley, in reference to this, said that no complaint of any kind had been received by the Government.

Mr. Mitchell contended that dissatisfaction existed alike among those who wished to negotiate loans, and the business world which was called on to furnish the money. There were those who complained that the borrower himself was laboring under burdensome restrictions. "As the legislation complained of has in large measure been enacted during the regime of the former Government, and continued and in some instances extended since the present Government took office, both sides must assume their relative responsibility, clared Mr. Mitchell. He wished to see the whole question discussed without bias or party feeling, and would not press for the carrying out of the stipulations in his resolution in their entirety.

Mr. Mitchell then dealt with the various classes of legislation which might affect mortgages, including the personal covenant, seed grain and relief liens on lands and crops, and certain other priorities; legislation respecting the levy and collection of certain taxes imposed by statute, to assist in developing such services as hospitals; aids to the indigent and sick; municipal hospital construc-tion; municipal hail insurance; destruction of noxious weeds; workmen's compensation, etc. The legislation affecting personal covenant as it stood today was no bar to the investment of money in mortgages, Mr. Mitchell thought.

There was some pounding of U. F. A. desks when Mr. Mitchell, referring to the expenses incurred in the destruction of grasshoppers, under legislation which might affect mortgages, remarked that there had been apparently no limit to the charge, but "the pests are disap-

pearing from the country."

This, and one or two comments by George Hoadley in an undertone, caused the member to protest that he found it

difficult to proceed when a member opposite was disturbing him.

"I beg the honorable gentleman's pardon if I have disturbed him," said Mr. Hoadley, "I did not know I had that ability"

ability.

Mr. Mitchell instanced the priorities given under the Alberta Co-operative Credits Act as factors which would act in a detrimental manner to people who loaned money on mortgages. Other matters dealt with were the Crop Payments Act, the Bills of Sale Act affecting Chattel Mortgages for necessaries, the Attornment Clause in mortgages, the Tax Recovery Act and the Minerals Taxation Act.

SAYS SOME COMPANIES HAVE WITHDRAWN

"It is alleged," he said, "that as a result of this legislation, capital for mortgage loan purposes is now available only in limited amounts and under unreasonable terms, and in many cases firms have withdrawn from business entirely." Mr. Mitchell did not, however, cite any specific instance.

The member was proceeding to state that cop liens which were operative only for a single season under legislation passed by the old Government had been made continuing from year to year, by the new Government, when Lorne Proudfoot interrupted to remark that the legislation referred to was passed in 1920. Mr. Mitchell shortly afterwards referred to this legislation as having been passed in 1921, and Mr. Proudfoot then quoted chapter and verse, to show that the enactment had taken place in the previous vear.

In 1922, the member for Bow Valley went on, there was further revision, whereby liens of crops took priority, for all practical purposes, over everything

Congratulating the Minister and Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs on the increase in tax collections last year, Mr. Mitchell remarked that probably two-thirds of this was paid in by mortgage companies to protect their interests.

MINERAL TAX "CONFISCATION OF PEOPLE'S RIGHTS"

"Confiscation of the people's rights in this country," was the member's designation of the Mineral Taxation Act. was "one of the most objectionable and mischievous pieces of legislation recently enacted," and would work a hardship on owners and all interested in investments in Alberta. The act, said Mr. Mitchell, placed a tax not on the mineral itself, but on the right to search for minerals. with no reference to their value or quantity. No account was taken of the fact that a mineral owner might be in the act of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in a possibly vain search for minerals.

Under the act, failure to make payment by September 1st involved a penalty of 10 per cent., and if payment were not made by October 1st, a notification would be sent by the Minister, and if taxes were not paid within three months. the Minister had power to direct the registrar of land titles to make a memorandum upon the certificate of title that all mines and minerals in or beneath the surface should pass to ownership of the Province, with the right to work the same and remove the minerals. The period for redemption was one year.
"This," repe

"This," repeated Mr. Mitchell, with emphasis, "is confiscatory legislation and not taxation." He added that only a little more than \$9,000 had been collected under the act last year, although it had been estimated that the tax would yield a revenue of \$300,000. was discussing the economic troubles of ranchers in a general way, when Mr. Speaker called him to order, and asked him to keep to the subject before the

Assembly.

ONLY "THESE PEOPLE ACROSS THE WAY"

Mr. Mitchell replied that he resented being constantly checked. The Speaker was proceeding to call him to order again somewhat sharply when the memoer declared that he had no complaint against the chair, for whose rulings he had the utmost respect, but that "these people across the way" disturbed him.

PREMIER GREENFIELD CHARGES MISREPRESENTATION

Premier Greenfield then read the following brief statement to the Asembly. as embodying the Government's position.

The Government has, during the past year, had several conferences with repre-sentatives of mortgage companies doing business in this Province, with reference to the legislation of the Province affecting their Interests. Members of the Government have also met the representatives of Investing companies in Eastern Canada. The views of such investors towards Provincial legislation are well known to the

Government, and it remains therefore for the Government to determine how far it should comply with certain requests for amending legislation.

Since assuming office this Government

has already enacted legislation which it believes has considerably improved the security of investors of money on land security and this opinion is confirmed by a number of representatives of such com-panies as well as their legal advisers. A number of such representatives have admitted quite frankly that the situation in this Province is not as serious as repre-sented by public statements issued during the last year purporting to be issued on behalf of the Mortgage Loans Association of this Province. In the opinion of the Government many of these statements have been misleading to such an extent that not only have the interests of the Prov-ince been prejudicially affected, but they have also confused eastern investors with respect to the security afforded by mort-gages on real estate in this Province.

The Government feels there are still certain respects in which legislation affecting such investments may be improved and suggest to the House in due Statute Law Amendments providing for

such changes.

BOYLE SAYS PRIVY COUNCIL COULD KILL THE ACT

J. R. Boyle spoke briefly in support of the motion. He said the Mineral Tax Act was primarily directed against the C. P. R. and Hudson's Bay Company. While he held no brief for them, there was no reason why they should be singled out for discriminatory treatment. In good times the effect of certain kinds of legislation on borrowing powers was not noticed, but the trouble arose when depression came. He was confident that if this particular act went to the Privy Council, the Council, with its careful regard for justice to those who held property right, would declare the act invalid on the ground that it was confiscatory.

GEORGE JOHNSTON SAYS MOTION WIDE OF THE MARK

"If all the legislation on the statute books affecting the matters referred to were removed tomorrow, I do not believe the economic situation would be materially changed," said G. N. Johnston, U. F. A. (Coronation). Deflation of prices of agricultural products was almost entirely responsible for the present mortgage situation.

Investments are not going to be made in an industry which is so heavily involved in debt already, and where, owing to this deflation in the farmers' ability to create revenue, the sale values of farm lands have been practically

stroyed," said the member.

If the resolution had called for measures to secure better prices (which the farmers were trying to do through such organizations as the Wheat Pool), or to consolidate the farmers' debts, he would have supported it. If prices of farm products rose and farming became profitable, investors would send money into Alberta, regardless of the legislation which the member for Bow Valley complained of. Mr. Johnston had hoped that the Committee of Commerce and Agriculture created some time ago would discover some way of effecting this consolidation. The development of co-operative credit societies was another means

of effecting improvement.
"The suggestion contained in this resolution," declared Mr. Johnston in conclusion, "is far wide of the mark."
The farmer would be shy of taking on any further capital liabilities at the present time at rates of 8 and 9 per cent., in any event, and it was not desirable

that he should increase his liability. His first aim was to reduce his present liabilities.

If the legislation giving protection to farmers in their relations with mortgage companies were ever justified, it was justified today when the farmers' ability

to pay was at a very low ebb.

W. M. Davidson, supporting the resolution, said that if there had been propaganda, the committee should be able to discover it, and expose what must be regarded as a very serious slander on the The statements made in be-Province. half of the mortgage companies were bad advertising. It might be that not legislation, but deflation, as the member for Coronation had said, was the real cause of the trouble. Mr. Davidson liked the system in vogue in the Federal House, where private members took an active part in the work of various important committees.
J. W. Heffernan, Liberal (Edmonton)

asked what value there could be in adwancing money to farmers when there were "nine or ten preceding loans or liens." He did not agree that deflation was altogether the cause of the present

Farmers Cannot Pay if Unable to Meet **Production Costs**

Brownlee States Trouble is Primarily Economic-Reviews Field of Legislation-Reason for Opposing Motion

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 27.—Expressing complete agreement with Premier Greenfield's charge that much propaganda issued by mortgage interests in Alberta has been misleading and prejudicial to the interests of the Province, J. E. Brownlee, Attorney-General, speaking in the Assembly today, quoted definite statements made by certain representatives of the investors, to the Government itself, to the effect that "a great deal of this misleading propaganda has come from Western officials of some companies who have made unfortunate investments, and who are trying to cover up the results of bad management by protests against the legislation." There were still other companies whose investments had been carefully made, and who had also had the good fortune to have their money in districts where there had been no crop failures. By these no difficulty was reported.

THE KIND OF COMPANY THAT MIGHT WELL WITHDRAW

"The trouble," declared the Attorney-General. "is not primarily one of legislation, for although the legislation which is principally complained of was on the statute books of the Province prior to 1921, there were practically no complaints until after that year. The difficulty is primarily economic, and arises from the fact that the farmers have been unable to pay because they were not obtaining sufficient money to meet their costs of production. If they cannot meet their costs of production, they cannot pay taxes and meet payments of other kinds. This would be true of any business, whatever it might be. If any mortgage company wishes to withdraw from Al-

berta because the farmer is protected in such matters as binder twine, and in various other respects, I don't care how soon it goes out of the Province. I will never be a party to legislation which would give to the mortgage companies an absolute priority of claim as against

propaganda, and ih In rebuttal of proof of its misleading character, the Attorney-General stated that the only priorities which the present Government had created over the claims of mortgage companies concerned legislation for the destruction of grasshoppers, and some drainage legislation of a purely local character. But for the steps taken to eradicate grasshoppers Alberta would not have had a 175,000,000 bushel wheat crop, and it might be questioned whether any considerable wheat crop would have been harvested last year, as in large areas south of the international boundary the land had been stripped bare in 1923 by these pests. The crisis which Alberta

had faced in connection with this matter

was as serious as any which the previous

Government had had to face. A NON-PARTIZAN PRESENTATION OF FACTS

Mr. Brownlee's review of the situation is acknowledged by all parties who were present at today's debate, as the most lucid and forceful contribution to the discussion of this important question that has hitherto been made. In opening he expressed his intention to keep away from all political issues, and to present the facts without bias, and he stated that there would be no disposition on the U. F. A. side of the Assembly to suggest that the member who preceded him (Capt. Pearson), was acting in behalf of the mortgage companies. It is doubtful whether any member of the Assembly, no matter what his political affiliations might be, would charge that the Attorney-General had failed to live up to his opening promises of non-partizan presentation of the facts.

The occasion of the speech was Mr. Mitchell's motion, calling for a Select Committee to investigate legislation affecting mortgage loans. This proposal Mr. Brownlee did emphatically oppose, on the ground that there was no need to investigate matters upon which the facts were already known, and well-known to Mr. Mitchell himself.

Stanley Tobin, Liberal (Leduc), supported the position of the Government. in the belief that they must take the responsibility for the legislation. As the Attorney-General had stated that changes would be made with a view to such improvements in the law as might be found necessary, he was content to wait. He agreed with U. F. A. speakers that it was doubtful whether the farmers could stand very many changes at the present time. J. C. Bowen, Liberal (Edmonton), R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), Dr. Stewart, Conservative (Lethbridge), and Robert Pearson, Independent (Calgary), expressed their intention to vote for the Liberal resolution. Lorne Proudfoot, U. F. A. (Acadia), and W. C. Smith, U.F.A. (Redcliff), spoke in opposition to the resolution.

The Government, said Mr. Brownlee, had looked carefully over the whole field of mortgage legislation, and as the member for Bow Valley (Mr. Mitchell), had shown in his very table process. had shown in his very able speech, he also was well informed in regard to the history of this legislation, though the Minister did not agree with many of his

conclusions. The Government, after two years' inquiry, was in a better position to make recommendations concerning this legislation than any special committee which could sit at most for the few weeks remaining before the end of the session. The special committees of the Federal House, which had done splendid work, were in a different position, as the House of Commons was in session for a period of nearly six months. The member for Calgary (Mr. Davidson) was not able to take the word of the Government on this legislation after their two years' study of the subject, and yet was willing presumably to accept the finding of a committee after a few weeks' sitting. LAW ON COVENANT HAS NO HARMFUL EFFECT

Reviewing mortgage legislation up to 1921, (it was in respect to this legislation that practically all complaints were made), Mr. Brownlee said that as the member for Bow Valley had shown that he thoroughly understood the situation, it was difficult to see why he should wish an inquiry by special committee. member had said that he was quite satis-

fied that the legislation in regard to the personal covenant, as it now stood, was

not a bar to investment in this Province.
"I am of the opinion," said the Attorney General, "that the first legislation affecting the personal covenant did have a prejudicial effect. We have to consider that if we had been in the position in which the Government of that day had found themselves, under war-time conditions, we cannot say what we should have done. We must expect our predecessors to give equal consideration to those who have to deal with the reconstruction period." There were certain things that this Government would be glad to do, but could not because of present economical conditions.

Dealing with legislation giving priorities, under nine different heads, Mr. Brownlee said that from the year 1918 to 1921 legislation had been passed which gave the right to make grants for seed grain and relief, and to take liens in respect to these grants. If a commission such as the commission created to deal with drought relief more recently had then been created, perhaps the system of relief might have been worked out more scientifically, and might then have been discontinued at an earlier date.

The second class of legislation concerned priorities in regard to hospitals. The first legislation of this character was passed in 1911, and was subject to changes up to 1921. Next was the wild land tax, passed in 1914; then the Noxious Weeds Act (legislation touching this matter dated from 1902 to 1921). In respect to Municipal Hail Insurance the Government which introduced the legislation felt it necessary to make the tax a first charge, and there was no criticism at the time. Workmen's Compensation, which had been a great benefit to working people, also provided for priorities, but its effect was practically nil so far as mortgages were concerned.

The Co-operative Credits Act of 1917 as amended in 1921 created a charge on growing and future crops. The formation of these societies was undoubtedly

a step forward.

Mr. Brownlee then dealt with the attornment clause, showing that the action taken in this matter arose out of a court decision, which had necessitated changes in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and this Province. The principle of the Tax Recovery Act was established in all the Provinces.

Although most of this legislation had

been passed prior to 1921, there had been no complaint of any serious sort until the last six months.

Mr. Brownlee read from the report of an address delivered by a representa-tive of one of the mortgage companies, who said recently that the matters now complained of "were not brought to the attention of investors until crop failures restricted the ability of farmer borrowers

to pay."

The minister remarked that it was unfair to compare conditions in Ontario, where money could be obtained for six per cent., to those in a pioneer country like Alberta, where the reason given for charging eight or nine per cent. was that conditions were more hazardous. company charging the higher rates of interest did so on the ground that they must be prepared for this hazard.

The Government had discontinued seed grain relief in 1923. Prior to 1921 there had been an unlimited charge for eradication of weeds. This, under legislation passed in 1922, was now limited to \$200. This, under legislation Exemptions under the wild lands tax had been increased. In 1922, in addition to the provision of the attornment clause, the Government passed the Crop Payments Act, which enabled a farmer to lease to a mortgage company a one-third interest in his crop, if he wished to protect his mortgage. Mr. Fream had declared that as a result of this many men who would have been foreclosed and lost their farms, had been able to remain on the land.

A FALSE STATEMENT WHICH INJURED THE PROVINCE

Discussing misleading propaganda on the Tax Recovery Act, Mr. Brownlee said the Government had received letters from mortgage interests in the East who stated they had been led to believe that after the filing of a caveat the land went out of the possession of the owner. was contrary to the facts as a period of twelve months had always been allowed for redemption, and under new legislation passed by the present Government the period was six months longer than under the old. Under the old act much land passed into the hands of third parties, who might be living in Europe-people who made a business of buying land at tax recovery sales. Now the municipality could hold this land to give the owner a further chance to redeem, and the act was much fairer to him. It was intended to provide that title should be vested in the Province.
ONLY COMPLAINTS FROM C.P.R.

AND HUDSON'S BAY CO.

Calling attention to the great stress which had been laid by Mr. Mitchell on the Mineral Tax Act, Mr. Brownlee declared, "So far there has been no single protest against the act except by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company. The protests are not from the mortgage companies," said The tax of three cents an acre is no more vicious in principle than the wild lands tax. The company held back mining rights after disposing of the surface rights because they expected to make a great profit by doing so."

Mr. Brownlee referred to the fact that a leading opposition member had predicted that the Mineral Tax Act would be disallowed. The Attorney General added that if this statement foreshadowed action to be taken by the Dominion Government, the Liberals might do well to consider a statement made some years ago by the late Sir Allan Aylesworth, former Liberal Minister of Justice. Sir Allan said, in dealing with an application for disallowance of a Provincial act, that if this act were intra vires, (that is to say, within the powers of the Province under the British North America Act), no matter how objectionable it might be considered, it could not be disallowed, since it must be considered an expression of the will of the people through their elected representatives. Mr. Mitchell signified that so far as he was concerned, he had not intended to intimate that he had any knowledge of what the Dominion Government might do in respect to the Mineral Tax Act.

Mr. Brownlee was confident that this legislation was intra vires of the Prov-

MORTGAGE COMPANIES PAID LESS THAN ONE-SEVENTH

The member for Bow Valley had de-clared that the mortgage companies had paid the greater part of the land taxes. The Government of course had not in their possession the figures for Municipal Districts, but in the Local Improvement out of a total of \$1,252,000 paid, only \$173,000 was paid by the mortgage com-

"In fairness to the Mortgage Loans Association," said Mr. Brownlee in con-clusion, "it must be stated that their principal officers had declared that they did not expect to obtain changes in the law all at once."

W. C. Smith said a good many excellent settlers had been forced off their farms by the mortgage companies.

Lorne Proudfoot, U.F.A. (Acadia), referring to a heading in the Edmonton Bulletin to the effect that the Liberals had "aided Davidson" in pressing for a special committee, asked banteringly whether it was to be understood that Mr Davidson was the force behind the Liberal party, and whether he might possibly move his desk to a leading position among the group of members of the great Liberal party opposite. Mr. Proudfoot asked whether Mr. Davidson's position would be next to the opposition leader, or whether the opposition leader's chair was to be vacated shortly.

The member endorsed Mr. Johnston's statement that the economic condition of the farmer, and not legislation concerning mortgages, was responsible for the present situation. "Whatever is done in a legislative way, we shall not have a flood of money because the farming industry is not on a paying basis."

Recalling Mr. Davidson's insistence last session on the necessity of a Geddes commission to find means of cutting down expenditures, Mr. Proudfoot remarked that after more mature deliberation, the Calgary member had arrived this year at the opinion that the Government had economized as far as possible. Last year he had doubts. This year they were removed.

Mr. Davidson rose at this point to say that his speech on the address was not

being correctly interpreted.

If, as the Calgary member had suggested, said Mr. Proudfoot, inquiry were to be made into other matters than mortgage legislation, (to ascertain, instance, whether deflation of agricultural prices were not the real trouble), would it not be better to hold the discussion in the Assembly's Committee on Agricul-Mr. Proudfoot thought that Long Term Loans Act, made workable and with local control. on similar lines to the Co-operative Credits Act, might replace the present mortgage system in The true policy should be to bring loans in and get the farmers out of debt.

(Continued on page 10)

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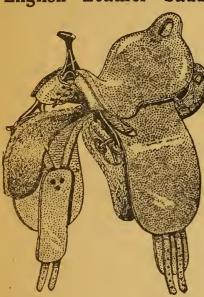
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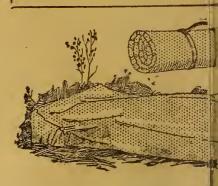
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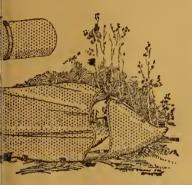
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Deficit of \$571,683 for 1923 Little More Than One-Half the Estimate

Steady Reduction in Deficit Since 1921—Expenditure for Year Has Been Kept Below Estimate by \$180,020—Almost Every Department Shows Lower Expenditure and Increased Revenue

Staff Correspondence

EDMONTON, Feb. 28—Alberta's deficit for the year 1923 was \$571,683.74, according to the public accounts tabled in the Legislature today by R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer. The estimated deficit was \$1,016,239.15, and the actual reduction below

016,239.15, and the actual reduction below this estimate is thus \$444,555.26.

The estimated expenditure for 1923 was \$11,170,859.75, and the actual expenditure \$10,990,830.00: the estimated revenue for 1923 was \$10,154,620.80, and the actual revenue \$10,419,146.26, or \$264,525.46 more than the estimate. There was a deficit in 1921 of \$2,118,206.66, and in 1922 of \$1,910,-302.40, thus during the past three years there has been a progressive tendency to approach a "balanced budget," the deficit being little more than one-fourth as great in 1923 as it was in 1921. It was in the fall of that year that the U.F.A. Government came into office.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure The statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1923, is as follows:

Revenue

	Estimated	Actual
Dom. Subsidy\$	1,628,638.20	\$ 1,628,638.20
School Lands	640,000.00	520,028.38
Treas. Dept	289,427.60	334,936.39
AttnyGen. Dept.	2,032,950.00	2,356,525.25
Prov. Sec	2,170,990.00	2,223,624.12
Pub. Works Dept.	95,400.00	100,747.06
Education Dept	124,000.00	104,141.74
Agri. Dept	336,425.00	359,860.68
Railways Branch.	30,000.00	740.91
Municipal Affairs.	2,590,580.00	2,522,695.07
Public Health	216,250.00	219,042.27
Legislation	2,540.00	2,293.25
King's Printer	23,000.00	30,938.65
Pub. Utilities Bd.	4,500.00	4,502.80
Miscellaneous		14,431.49

\$10,154,620.80 \$10,419,146.26

Expenditure

	Estimated	Actual
Public Debt\$	3,175,187.93	\$ 3,221,913.26
Civil Gov	622,045.00	598,911.00
Legislation	227,805.00	224,611.03
Administration of		
Justice	1,500,376.40	1,466,696.28
Public Works	1,168,944.82	1,137,743.22
Education	2,325,380.00	2,245,854.40
Agriculture	554,850.00	533,450.32
Health	907,180.00	854,927.89
Railways Branch	20,280.00	16,100.57
General		
Administration.	246,304.50	355,080.94
Municipal Affairs.	132,400.00	120,581.18
Miscellaneous	290,136.30	211,758.54

\$11,170,859.95 \$10,990,830.00

Lower Expenditure and Increased Revenue

The largest Item in expenditures was for Interest and overhead charges in connection with the public debt. In the Attorney-General's Department the saving over estimated revenue was \$323,575. In this Department there was a gain of \$115,136 in revenue as compared with 1922. In the Department of Municipal Affairs there was a gain in revenue as compared with 1922. a gain in revenue as compared with 1922 of \$691,887.78, and the expenditure fell short of the estimate by \$67,805. There was a reduction in the cost of Administration of Justice, as compared with 1922, of \$120,-592.36; and as compared with the estimates of \$53,680.12. In the Education Department the saving as compared with 1922 was \$198,835.30, and the reduction on the estimates for 1923 was \$79.525.60. In the Department of Public Works there was an expenditures as compared with partment of Public Works there was an increase in expenditures as compared with the estimates, of \$31,206.60, but as compared with 1922 there was a reduction of \$160,-

The actual revenue of the Provincial Secretary's Department was \$52,634.12

greater than the estimate, and \$135,278.48 greater than in 1922.

Liquor profits during the year totalled

Election Deposit to Be Abolished in the New Act

Will Allow 40 Days Between Dissolution and Election Day, Instead of 25—P. R. and Preferential Ballot

Extension of the time within which an election must be held following dissolution; provision for proportional representation in the cities and the use of the single transferable vote in rural constituencies; shortening of the local residence period necessary to qualify as a voter; and the abolition of the election deposit will, it is understood, be among the principal provisions of the new Election Bill to be introduced by the best provided to the constitution of the same provided to the constitution of the same provided to the constitution of the same period to the same duced in the Alberta Legislature during the present session. Provision for redistribution of seats will not be made this year.

Under the present act nominations must be held between the 18th and the 25th day, following a dissolution, and the election must be held eight days later. It is expected that the new bill will provide that the nominations must be held between the treatieth and thirtisth day and the election.

the nominations must be held between the twentieth and thirtieth day, and the election within the next ten days—a total of 40 days thus being allowed.

Under the act now in force, subject to possession of the other necessary qualifications, a British subject may vote in a Provincial election providing he or she bas been a resident of Alberta for 12 months, and of the constituency for three months. The latter period will be reduced to two months.

It is anticipated that the bill will be introduced by Alex. Ross.

Telephone Deficit for 1923, \$116,755

Interest Bill Exceedingly Heavy, Owing Largely to Heavy Purchases up to 1921—Total Liability \$24,352,907

(Special Correspondence)

EDMONTON, March 3.—The deficit on telephones for the year 1923 amounted to \$116,755.46, according to the statement laid on the table when the House met today, by the Provincial Treasurer. The amount due for sinking fund, one-half of one per cent., was responsible for practically the entire deficit, having accounted for \$115,934.81.

Both staff and payroll have suffered drastic reductions during the year, the latter amounting to \$445,783.00, or \$37,148.65 per month. From January, 1921, to February, 1924, maintenance cost per month was reduced from \$34,649.10 to \$27,788.48. The number of telephones in use, in spite of staff and operating reductions, incr 42,854 in 1921 to 53,896 in 1924.

The total revenue for 1923 was \$2,361,-468.16, apportioned as follows: Exchan earnings, \$967,506.63; rural earnings, \$480,743.46; tolls and toll earnings, \$907,218.07. Exchange

The expenditure for operation was \$926,-337.85, and maintenance \$361,384.68, a total expenditure of \$1,287,722.53. Adding to revenue \$150,184.91, inclusive of directory earn-

ings, miscellaneous and interest earned, and

ings, miscellaneous and interest earned, and deducting therefrom interest, contingencies and bank commission, etc., leaves a deficit of \$\$20.65 on the year's operations.

The interest bill for 1923 is exceedingly heavy, being \$1,194,072.52. The losses incurred through the excessive purchase of material prior to and including 1921 was responsible, very largely, for the present high interest charges. The bonded debt amounts to \$23,123,839.02. Adding to this current liabilities and the deficit, we find the liability of the Province for telephones reaching the total of \$24,352,907.82.

FARMERS CANNOT PAY IF UNABLE TO MEET PRODUCTION COSTS

(Continued from page 7)

He hoped to see some plan for the funding of debts adopted, and the farmers kept on the land.

Mr. Proudfoot believed that a reduction in the tariff was one means by which agriculture could be assisted to a more healthy condition. Speaking of the speeches made by Liberal members, he said that some of these had ably presented the mortgage companies' side of the case.

Thinks Agents May Have Been Too Zealous R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), did not

R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), did hot think the Alberta mortgage men could have carried on propaganda without the consent of their head offices, though perhaps in their zeal they had gone farther than the head offices intended. He did not believe that legislation alone was responsible for the present situation concerning investors.
was more concerned to see a prosper a prosperous

Province than to see any political party in a prosperous condition. Robert Pearson, Independent (Calgary), said no contract should be changed without the consent of both parties. Some contracts

the consent of both parties. Some contracts had been changed to the advantage of the mortgagor by the Government. He held no brief for any mortgage company and had not been closely associated with any professionally. The worst sufferer from any imperfect legislation was not the powerful mortgage company, but the individual mortgagee. Stanley Tobin said he would not support the motion, and asked that Mr. Mitchell elther withdraw it, or that it be amended. He did not approve of the Mineral Tax Act. Dr. Stewart thought the motion should

He did not approve of the Mineral Tax Act.
Dr. Stewart thought the motion should stand on the order paper until the Government brought down its promised amendments, in order that it might be ascertained whether these met the case. The private members should have all the information on this question which was in possession of the Government. He would support the motion.

At the opening of the sitting R. G. Reid

At the opening of the sitting R. G. Reid, At the opening of the sitting R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, stated in answer to a complaint from the opposition that the public accounts would be laid on the table at the earliest possible moment, and pointed out that under the old regime the earliest date at which these had been brought down was February 16th, in 1919, while on other occasions they had been brought down in March, the month, at times, being well advanced. The time when the Assembly opened had no bearing on the time when these accounts would be ready for presentation.

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 23—C. R. Mitchell's motion, calling for the setting up of a Select Committee of the Assembly to inquire into causes of dissatisfaction with legislation affecting mortgages, was defeated in the Legislature this afternoon. The motion was supported by the Liberals, with the exception of S. Tobin (Leduc) who voted with the Government, and by Dr. Stewart (Ind.-Conservative), and the Labor and Independent members. All the U.F.A. members present in the Assembly, with the EDMONTON, Feb. 28—C. R. Mitchell's members present in the Assembly, with the exception of P. Enzenauer (Alexandra), who did not vote, opposed the motion. N. S. Smith (Olds), and E. E. Sparks (Wetaskiwin), were not in the Assembly when the vote was taken.

Second reading of the private bill pro-vlding for Church Union was moved by W. H. Shield, U.F.A. member for Macleod. On



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motion of Premier Greenfield a bill to amend the Municipal Hail Insurance Act. was read a second time in the Assembly. This provides that the owner of the land insured must sign application, that applications will not be received if payment of taxes is more than one year in arrears, and contains other important provisions which will be discussed fully when the bill goes to committee of the whole.

A bill to incorporate the Burmis Carbon Railway Company, to serve certain coal properties, was read a second time on motion of Earl Cook, U.F.A. member for Pincher Creek. Mr. Brownlee suggested that the promoters should be required to come before the Railway Committee, who should ascertain exactly who are behind the bill and what prospect there is of the line being completed within a reasonable period of time. Mr. Boyle remarked that the financial standing of the promoters was no guarantee that the line would be assured of early completion.

CONTROL OF SCHOOL LANDS SALES

CONTROL OF SCHOOL

LANDS SALES

LANDS SALES

The Assembly rejected by an "Aye" and "Nay" vote (actual names not being recorded) a motion by S. Tobin, Liberal, (Leduc), asking that the Dominion Government be memorialized to place in the hands of the Alberta Government complete control of the conduct of the school lands sales held from time to time, and that the Alberta Governments co-operate with the Covernments of Manltoba and Saskatche-

sales held from time to time, and that the Alberta Government co-operate with the Governments of Manltoba and Saskatchewan to this end.

Mr. Tobin said that there were 6,768,000 acres of school lands unsold in the Province. Ten years had passed between sales, and then 300 parcels had been sold in one day. The present system of sales by auctioneers was, he believed, unsatisfactory. Perren Baker, Minister of Education, did not believe that Mr. Tobin's main contention was borne out by the facts, and he regretted that he must oppose the motion. It did not ask for the turning over of the lands, but only for the control of their sale. The last four sales showed an average price of \$17.12 per acre, the prices being, 1916, \$12.52; in 1917, \$16.52; in 1918, \$17.40, and in 1920, \$17.72. He doubted whether a higher price would have been obtained by the Province. The Minister said he would be reluctant to go to Ottawa with such a request as was contained in the motion, and if the Government were to go, they could scarcely do so with a motion suggesting maladministration, as Mr. Tobin's did. Mr. Baker doubted whether Manitoba and Saskatchewan would join with Alberta in this matter in any event.

MITCHELL REPLIES ON MORTGAGE MOTION

MITCHELL REPLIES ON MORTGAGE MOTION

MORTGAGE MOTION
Replying to criticism of his motion calling for a Select Committee to inquire into complaints regarding mortgage legislation, and closing the debate, C. R. Mitchell said he was surprised and disappointed that the Government had not accepted his motion. The Federal Progressive members had been very successful in having constituted committees of the Federal House to investigate economic problems. economic problems.

The reservoirs of capital, said the member, were full to overflowing, but mighty little was coming to Alberta. He regretted that the member for Hand Hills had not spoken on this subject, as he believed this member entertained similar views to his

own.

Gordon Forster, U.F.A., (Hand Hills): "I expected to speak at length yesterday, but as Mr. Brownlee said practically all that I had in mind, did not do so."

Mr. Mitchell: "Mr. Brownlee's statement was very fair and clear. My complaint is that he did not take the situation seriously enough."

The member went on to say that the real

The member went on to say that the people who objected to the mortgage legisla-tion were also investors in Provincial bonds, and he had some grounds for belleving that these investors were annoyed, not because they had doubts about the Provincial secur-ity, but because they dld not like this

ity, but because they did not like this mortgage legislation.

Mr. Hoadley asked whether a good price had not been paid for bonds recently sold by the present Government.

Mr. Mitchell: "Bonds of Alberta command as high a price as ever, and perhaps some

sales by the present Government have been

sales by the present Government have been better than former ones."

Premier Greenfield declared that the eastern investors in question were not annoyed by mortgage legislation complained of, but influenced by propaganda sent out from this Province, and that as soon as they received information as to the facts, over the Government's signature, suspicion was removed.

was removed.

A statement by Mr. Mitchell that secretaries of municipalities had been advised by the Government to go ahead and collect all taxes, brought the statement from Mr. Brownlee that in response to a request he had written an interpretation of the existing law. This was the same interpretation as that given by the legislative counsellor for the late Government.

CASE FOR CHURCH UNION

It was entirely in because

It was entirely in keeping with the traditions of the Presbyterian church that they should make the first overtures, said Mr. Shield, in moving the second reading of the Union Bill, the Westminster Confession of 1643 having been born in a desire for common Union Bill, the Westminster Confession of 1643 having been born in a desire for common ground on which to unite all the Churches of the British Isles, and adopted by the Scottish churches, but owing to troublous times, not adopted in England. In recent legislation of the Church of Scotland there was a clause recognizing the "obligation to seek prompt union with other churchs." In Canada the Presbyterians had been not more backward. In 1749 a union of Presbyterians and Congregationalists took place at a meeting held in an Angilcan church in Halifax. In 1817 the first organized union of Presbyterian churches took place, preceding a Methodist union by three years.

Minority rights were protected under the bill before the Assembly, said Mr. Shield, by the provision that property held by congregations was not subject to control of the United church until consented to by the congregations at duly called meetings. Mr. Shield's speech was not completed at the time of adjournment of the Assembly.

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 29—The Church Union Bill was read a second time without division in the Legislative Assembly today. Considerable time was spent on a point of order raised by M. C. McKeen, U.F.A. member for Lac Ste. Anne, when Bill No. 7, providing for Church Union, came up for discussion. Mr. McKeen argued that as the Presbyterian Church was not a corporate body, the moderator was not authorised to take action or sign anything on its behalf; that the preamble of the bill was not capable of proof; that the petitioners had no authority; and that there being at present an action pending on several of these points in the Ontarlo courts, the Legislative Assembly had no other course than delay consideration until these points were settled. He also argued that as a clause in the Bill made the whole measure subject to amendment by the House of Commons at Ottawa, the bill should be delayed until after that body had deliberated upon it. upon lt.

The Speaker ruled that the measure was quite in order, and would be considered so until proof was introduced in the Assembly to the effect that the preamble and the petitioners mentioned therein were not authoritative. authoritative.

(Innisfall), to give the bill a six months' hoist, received little support in the Assembly, and the five members who are necessary to challenge a division could not be found. A motion by Donald Cameron, U.F.A., (Innisfall), to give the bill a six

A motion by W. M. Davidson, to allow strangers to enter the galleries before prayers stood over until Monday, sufficient notice not having been given. Mr. Davidson was quite agreeable to this decision, made at the suggestion of Premier Green-

Concluding his speech on the Church Union Bill, Mr. Shield expressed a hope that all members would seek to form an unbiased judgment upon It. It did not provide for the consummation of Union, and should the Assembly refuse to pass it, the main Issue would not be materially affected, as that was within the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament. Rejection of the Bill





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Caustic

would, however, embarrass the successful functioning of the Dominion Act in Alberta, and delay would create a situation in the negotiations approaching chaos. Russell Love, U.F.A., (Wainwright), George MacLachlan, U. F. A. (Pembina), and Capt. Robert Pearson, Independent, (Calgary), spoke in support of the Bill, which was opposed by Messrs. McKeen and Cameron. Mr. Cameron said he wished It to be understood that he did not do so from any narrow sectarian basis. He believed in union, but the mandate from the parties interested should be clear, and care should be taken that no injustice was done.

SUCCESS OF THE WHEAT POOL

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(Continued from page 1)
gram of the Trustees, insofar as the lists are
not now complete, will be given in "The
U.F.A." of March 11th. This week President Wood is addressing a number of
Wheat Pool meetings in Saskatchewan.

The itineraries are as follows:

C. Jensen, Lethbridge District
Place

Date Hour

Place Date
ManyberriesMarch 8 Place Date
Manyberries March 8
Orion March 10
Etzikom March 10
Foremost March 11
Wrentham March 12
Stirling March 12
Magrath March 12
Magrath March 14
Warner March 14
New Dayton March 15
Spring Coulee March 15
Punmore March 17
Seven Persons March 18
Whitla March 18
Bow Island March 19
Burdett March 19
Purple Spring March 20
Taber March 20
Taber March 21
Coaldale March 21
Lew Hutchinson, Camrose D 2.00 p.m. 2.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m. 2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m.

3.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. Lew Hutchinson, Camrose District 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. 4.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. Place

Place Date
Lake SaskatoonMarch 5 Lake Saskatoon March 5 Not known
Beaver Lodge March 6 Not known
Spirit River March 7 Not known
Waterhole March 10 Not known
Berwyn March 10 Not known
Ft. Saskatchewan March 13 2.00 p.m.
Rochester March 14 8.00 p.m.
Morinville March 15 2.30 p.m.
Legal Not known
Gibbons' Siding March 18 2.00 p.m.
Holden March 18 2.00 p.m.
Holden March 19 Not known
Edgerton March 19 Not known
Edgerton March 20 2.30 p.m.
Wainwright March 20 8.00 p.m.
Winterburn March 21 2.30 p.m.
Winterburn March 22 2.30 p.m.
B. S. Plumer, South Calgary
Place Date
Countess March 6 8.00 p.m.
Iddlesleigh March 7 Not known

Red Deer, March 10, 3 p.m.; Stettler, March 11; Coronation, March 12; Lacombe, March 13, 8 p.m.; Ponoka, March 14; Leduc,

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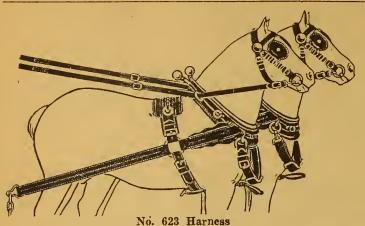
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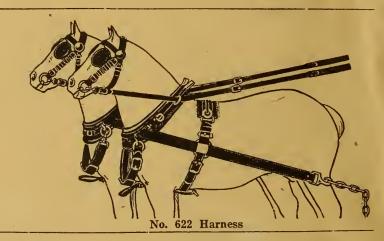
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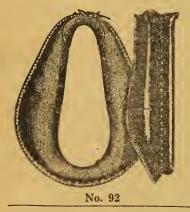


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